

Application No. 09/847,009
Attorney Docket No. 24827A

REMARKS

Status of Claims

Claims 1-22 are pending in the instant application. Claims 1-8 and 10-21 stand finally rejected. Claims 9 and 22 have been objected to. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 9 and 22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent format. To expedite prosecution of the instant application, Applicants have amended claims 1, 16 and 18 to contain the subject matter of claim 22 and have canceled claim 22 herein.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 1-21 are allowable over the prior art respectfully request that all rejections be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

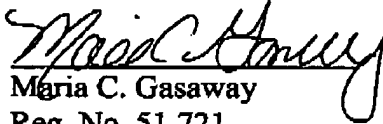
In light of the above, Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for allowance and therefore request favorable reconsideration and further examination culminating in a Notice of Allowability.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0568 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,


Maria C. Gasaway
Reg. No. 51,721

Date 9/7/04

Owens Corning
Intellectual Property Section
Science & Technology Center
2790 Columbus Road, Route 16
Granville, Ohio 43023-1200
(740) 321-7213

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